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AWARD OF THE ACTON PRIZE TO MISS AGNES CLERKE.

Once in seven years the ACTON prize of £100 is awarded to that person whose scientific writings have been most serviceable to the cause of Natural Religion. The last prize was adjudged to Professor G. STOKES of Cambridge University, late President of the Royal Society of London. This year the recipient is Miss AGNES CLERKE, the author of the "History of Astronomy in the XIX Century," of the "System of the Stars,"* of the "Studies in HOMER," etc. The justice of the award is evident; and it is especially noteworthy that Miss CLERKE succeeds the distinguished physicist, Sir G. STOKES. E. S. H.

FOREST-FIRE NEAR MOUNT HAMILTON, AUGUST, 1891.

After the termination of the forest fires spoken of in these *Publications*, Volume III, page 292, other great fires broke out on Mount Ysabel, about two miles directly east of the observatory. A number of excellent photographs of this fire were taken by Professor CAMPBELL. One of these is reproduced in the frontispiece of the present number from a block kindly furnished by the editor of the *Californian Illustrated Magazine*. E. S. H.

DISCOVERY OF ASTEROIDS.

The application of photography to the discovery of asteroids, for which Dr. WOLF of Heidelberg recently received the medal of the French Academy, is rapidly extending the list of these objects. About twenty-five have been discovered since January 1, and by only two observers, WOLF and CHARLOIS (of Nice).

W. W. C.

BRIGHT METEOR, APRIL 14, 1893.

While in the north dome, showing visitors the *Orion Nebula*, a very bright meteor passed across the slit at 8^h 23^m P. S. T., in a S. E. direction through *Auriga*. It was much brighter than a first magnitude star, and left a train of fire which was visible for several seconds. C. D. P.

* See *Publications A. S. P.*, Vol. III, page 180.

HONORARY DEGREE CONFERRED UPON PROFESSOR BARNARD.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon Professor BARNARD by the VANDERBILT University of Nashville, Tennessee, in March, 1893. He had previously received (1889) the honorary degree of M. A. from the University of the Pacific, San José.

E. S. H.

GRADUATE-SCHOOL OF ASTRONOMY AT MT. HAMILTON, 1893.

The following named persons will be with us during a part or the whole of the Academic year. We shall be obliged to decline to receive any others, on account of a lack of suitable quarters:

S. J. CUNNINGHAM, Sc. D., Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Observatory, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania	<i>Special.</i>
WILLIAM J. HUSSEY, B. S., C. E., Assistant Professor of Astronomy, STANFORD University, California	<i>Special.</i>
A. O. LEUSCHNER,* B. A., Instructor of Astronomy in the University of California, Berkeley	<i>Cand. Phil.</i>
HENRY S. PRITCHETT, M. A., Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Observatory, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri	<i>Special.</i>
HERMAN D. STEARNS, B. A., Instructor in Physics in the STANFORD University, California	<i>Special.</i>
SIDNEY D. TOWNLEY, B. S., M. S., HEARST Fellow in Astronomy	<i>Cand. Phil.</i>

E. S. H.

ALPHABETICAL INDEXES TO SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

Theoretically, the proper way to look upon a special scientific library is to regard it as a single book; and to prepare a single index within which all information contained in the entire library is referred to. This has been done for several American libraries (notably in that of the Surgeon-General's office in Washington—where the index so far as printed takes XII large quartos, and refers to no less than 104,000 books and 159,000 pamphlets). In general such an index cannot be prepared on account of the time and labor involved. Wherever a special collection is distributed by subjects on numbered shelves or in numbered cases or drawers, it is exceedingly convenient to have a brief finding-index, alphabetically arranged. And this is true whether the

* Continuing his work at Berkeley.



FOREST FIRE NEAR MOUNT HAMILTON, AUGUST, 1891
FROM A NEGATIVE BY PROFESSOR CAMPBELL.